

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 7

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

100 SOUTH MAIN STREET

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**VENTURA STATE ROUTE 118  
WILDLIFE CORRIDOR MULTI-AGENCY WORKING GROUP MEETING  
APRIL 21, 2005 – 1:00P.M. TO 2:30 P.M.  
SIMI VALLEY CITY HALL  
2929 TAPO CANYON ROAD, SIMI VALLEY, CA**

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **Introductions**

The meeting began with self introductions (see sign in sheet). Each meeting attendee received a packet that included the agenda, clarifications sheet, TEA Grant project description sheet, wildlife observation map, existing and proposed land use map, and a grant table.

### **I. Wildlife Corridor Working Group Clarifications**

Ron went through each point outlined on the clarifications sheet to ensure that the Group understands the future activities we will be undertaking with regards to road improvement projects and wildlife corridor recommendations. (See clarifications sheet for more details.)

He also went over the designated official members of the group and the need for attendees to keep focused on the goals of the group. The official members include: Elizabeth Chattin, Ventura County, Paul Edelman, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Ed Hayduk, Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District, Jim Riely, Waste Management, Ray Sauvajot, National Parks Service, Kristeen Penrod, South Coast Wildlands Study, Steve De George, Ventura County Transportation Commission, Dave Bobart, City of Moorpark, Chic Dabbs, City of Simi Valley.

Ron explained the reason for establishing official members was to make sure there was a balance in the group between environmentally focused groups and land use development oriented groups. It was explained that non-members are definitely welcome to contribute input to the group, however members will actually vote, if necessary and make formal recommendations. Ron discussed the need to make sure the efforts or recommendations generated by the group are compatible with future preservation and development plans.

Group members were asked to submit a short list of their individual expectations regarding the group process and its goals (eg, what do you expect to get out of the group process and what products do you expect to have at the end?). These expectations should be submitted to Amy Pettler at [Amy\\_Pettler@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Amy_Pettler@dot.ca.gov) or mailed to the office at 100 S. Main St. Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90012 by May

## II. Overview on the Caltrans TEA Grant and other Related Projects

A TEA Grant for wildlife crossing improvements including fencing and habitat enhancement at or near Rocky Peak Road should be receiving funding in May. We will be eliciting input from the group on developing this project with respect to the details. A more detailed description was made available in the handout.

Members were asked to share information with regards to developments or studies that they were involved with. Samia Maximous from Ventura County Transportation Commission informed the group of the problems with funding that the County is experiencing. She specifically stated that there is currently no funding for the Phase I or II Widening of the 118 Freeway. The proposal for an interchange at Alamos Canyon is currently in the environmental document preparation phase.

Amy Pettler discussed the plans for putting a wildlife crossing tunnel under the 101 freeway near Liberty Canyon in order to connect two areas of land that Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy acquired. The schedule and funding for that project are being reevaluated at this point in time.

Jeff Sikich with the National Parks Service discussed the current study he is conducting on Ventura State Route 23 between Tierra Rejada and Olsen. The study includes monitoring the route for roadkill and wildlife using the three culverts under the road. The idea of the study is to gather pre- and post-construction data to measure the affects of measures such as fencing and culvert cleaning that are proposed as mitigation for the Ventura 23 widening project. Monitoring includes infrared camera stations at the culverts, tracking data, and roadkill inventory. So far there has been data that indicates coyote, bobcats, mountain lion, birds, reptiles and a black bear have used this area either via the roadway or culverts for crossing.

Jim Riley with Waste Management said that Waste Management purchased the property near Alamos Canyon in October of last year and they are currently reviewing options.

Elizabeth Chattin with the County of Ventura has been working with UCSB on a student project and field study on large and small animals and amphibians with respect to roadkill and crossing facilities. They are going to incorporate the results of their study into the Planning Divisions' process for assessing impacts to wildlife movement.

Fiona Nagle, a student assistant at Caltrans, is developing a wildlife corridor resource database to evaluate the available data to see what categories of study need more data collection or study. She will also be creating a database for collecting roadkill numbers on our highways.

## III. Funding Opportunities Matrix

Amy Pettler from Caltrans discussed the funding opportunities matrix that was included in the hand out package. She explained that this matrix is intended to be used to help identify funding opportunities once the group has formal recommendations. It is also meant to be added to as other funding opportunities are identified by other group members. Please contact Amy Pettler if you have any other additional funding sources.

## IV. Action Items

- E-mail or mail a short list of your expectations for the group to [Amy\\_Pettler@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Amy_Pettler@dot.ca.gov) or 120 S. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012.
- Next meeting, originally scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup>, has been rescheduled for June 9, 2005 at 1:00 pm.

Note: We have developed a logo for this Corridor Effort

